'Lies,' Says Warren Commission Counsel of 'JFK'

WashPost 3/24/92

■ Iowa lawyer **David Belin** these days casts himself as nothing short of "the defender of the truth," which he says is a far cry from the version of the Kennedy assassination director Oliver Stone has brought to the silver screen. "There are more than 100 major lies, omissions and coverups in 'JFK,' " says the 62-year-old Belin, who helped investigate the killing. "The film is a massive coverup."

Presumably, Belin will elaborate on those shortcomings when he speaks to the National Press Club on Thursday. One of the 14 counsels to the Warren Commission in its 1964 inquiry into Kennedy's death, he's since written two books defending the commission's findings.

Belin unhappily cites a "JFK" teacher's guide that Warner Bros. helped finance and distribute to high schools and colleges. Warner says the booklets offer no viewpoint on the assassination; Belin says hogwash. "They called it 'a public execution' and 'a coup d'etat'—those are words from the script," he says. "It is really the McCarthyism of the '90s—and they are trying to infect our school curriculum."

David Belin: "JFK" is hogwash.

Belin is particularly steamed over Stone's portrayal of Earl Warren as "an incompetent and liar and someone who covered up the assassination." Says Belin: "In the '60s, there were billboards that said 'Impeach Earl Warren' by far-right extremists. It didn't work. Now Hollywood is doing it. Just think about that."

Stone has thought about it. He simply calls Belin "the ultimate frustrated losing prosecutor."